

Message Text

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65-61

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

CU-02 SAJ-01 CPR-01 NIC-01 /068 W

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R 091739Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9271

INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 05751

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW

SUBJECT: SOVIET V-E CELEBRATIONS

REF: STATE 78926

1. FRG BONN GROUP REP ON BILATERAL BASIS AND IN CONFIDENCE HAS INFORMED US OF JANUARY 31 CIRCULAR FRG FOM OFF INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL OF BONN'S DIPLOMATIC AND CAREER CONSULAR POSTS ON SUBJECT OF FRG OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION AT 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY CEREMONIES. INSTRUCTIONS HAVE ALSO LEAKED TO PRESS.

2. FOREIGN OFFICE INSTRUCTION REVIEWS EMPHASIS WHICH SOVIETS AND OTHER EES ARE PLACING ON VICTORY AS ONE OF "PROGRESSIVE FORCES" AND HARBINGER OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, AND ON EFFORT OF SOVIETS TO USE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS TO SERVE COMMUNIST FOREIGN POLICY GOALS. THE INSTRUCTION CONTINUES THAT THERE IS NO REASON TO ALTER FORMER PRACTICE WHICH PERMITTED PARTICIPATION AT RELIGIOUS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES BUT NOT REPEAT NOT AT
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VICTORY CELEBRATIONS. FURTHER, THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO

FRG REPS OVERSEAS REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF NATIONAL SOCIALISM AND OF WAR IN APPROPRIATE WAYS, AS HAS BEEN DONE IN THE PAST. HONORING OF FALLEN SOLDIERS SHOULD, IF POSSIBLE, BE DONE IN WAY WHICH WOULD INCLUDE GERMAN WAR DEAD, AND INSTRUCTION SUGGESTS "NEUTRAL WORDING" ON WREATHS SUCH AS "TO THE FALLEN" OR "TO THE DEAD OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR." REGARDING CULTURAL EVENTS, THOSE OF NEUTRAL AS OPPOSED TO PROPAGANDISTIC CHARACTER WOULD BE SUITABLE FOR PARTICIPATION. PARTICIPATION IN VICTORY CEREMONIES AND ATTENDANCE AT RECEPTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH CONTINUES TO BE PROSCRIBED. THIS RULE APPLIES NOT ONLY TO THE NORMAL MAY 9 CELEBRATIONS BUT ALSO, AND ESPECIALLY IN EE'S, TO COMMEMORATIONS OF PARTICULAR BATTLES.

3. FRG REPS OVERSEAS ARE REQUESTED, IN CASES OF DOUBT, TO REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS. REPS ARE ALSO REQUESTED TO FOLLOW OFFICIAL EXPRESSIONS OF HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON SUBJECT WHICH RELATE TO FRG DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY AND CRITICISM WHICH MUST BE COUNTERED BY BONN AND REPORT ON SAME BY CABLE.

4. AS NOTED ABOVE, FOREIGN OFFICE INSTRUCTION HAS ALSO LEAKED TO PRESS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN FON OFF WISCHNEWSKI WAS INTERVIEWED APRIL 8 BY ZDF. WISCHNEWSKI DECLARED THAT FON OFF INSTRUCTION WAS NOT A NEW FRG POSITION ON THE MATTER AND THAT 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF FREEDOM FROM FASCISM WOULD BE HONORED BY FRG AS 25TH ANNIVERSARY HAD BEEN, I.E., WITH STATEMENTS BY FEDERAL PRESIDENT, CHANCELLOR, POLITICAL PARTIES, AND BY PARTIES IN BUNDESTAG. ASKED BY T.V. INTERVIEWER ABOUT BONN'S REACTION TO POSSIBLE RECEPTION OF INVITATION FROM SOVIET AMBASSADOR FALIN, WISCHNEWSKI REFUSED TO GIVE ANSWER TO HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION, BUT SAID A DECISION WOULD BE MADE AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME IF SUCH AN INVITATION WERE RECEIVED.

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